

INDEXA



Fall 2001 - Winter 2002

Issues 55-56

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship
Daily Information Session—14.236 @ 23:30Z

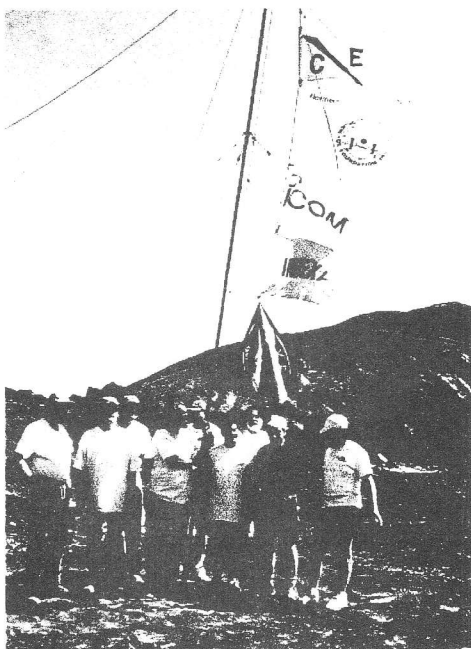
XR0X—The 2002 DXpedition to San Felix Island, Chile *by Robert W. Schmieder, KK6EK*

The 2002 San Felix Island DXpedition was carried out on schedule from 15 March 2002, 1748Z, through 26 March 2002, 1415Z. The total number of QSOs logged was 68,910.

The team was led by Carlos G-Nascimento, NP4IW/CE3AQI, and included Alan Brown, K5AB; Doug Faunt, N6TQS; Dick Hanson, K5AND; John Kennon, N7CQQ; Franz Langner, DJ9ZB; Michael Mraz, N6MZ; Max Mucci, I8NHJ; Joe Owen, KO4RR; Willy Ruesch, HB9AHL; Robert Schmieder, KK6EK; and Charles Spetnagel, W6KK. Ricardo Menzel, CE0YWS, was the primary coordinator in Chile.

The team assembled in Valparaiso, Chile, where they boarded the Chilean Navy vessel *Chacabuco*. After a two-day voyage, they arrived at San Felix, a volcanic island about 2 km long, with a small garrison and a large airstrip. The expedition gear was brought onto the island in 2 hours by helicopter, and the team came ashore by boat. The vessel then proceeded to Easter Island, and returned to San Felix after 10 days to pick up the team.

The team took full life support, including tents, generators, a pressurized water system, tables and chairs, lights, cooking facilities, and



Displaying the colors—San Felix Island

food. Members of the Chilean garrison provided significant help with moving gear, food preparation, gear repair, and activities such as fishing and swimming.

Three radio operating sites were established, one each for CW, SSB, and RTTY/FSK/6m. Each site had two radios and a variety of antennas. The CW site was separated from the others by more than a mile, although all three sites were on the northern edge of the island, overlooking the ocean.

Operations were conducted for nearly 10 days, at all times when there were

band openings, on all bands 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 80, and 160m and all modes CW, SSB, and RTTY/FSK. The strongest band was 10, with nearly 15,000 logged QSOs, closely followed by 17m, with more than 13,000. More than 200 different countries were logged. The average number of QSOs per operator per day was 575.

The QSL manager is N7CQQ. Pilots for the DXpedition were Klaus DL1XX and Dr. Bill, K6GNX. San Felix is DXCC CE0X. Its IOTA number is SA-013.

The total cost of the DXpedition was about \$30,000 of which 2/3 was paid by the participants and 1/3 by donations. Participant cost was about \$100/day, including transportation. Cost to donors of a QSL-confirmed QSO was about \$0.50.

The XR0X team is very grateful to INDEXA for a generous donation. In addition, the DXpedition gratefully acknowledges the following major sponsors: Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF); Swiss DX Foundation (SDXF); German DX Foundation (GDXF); Chiltern DX Club (CDXC); OH DX Foundation (OHDXF); Lone Star DX Foundation (LSDXF); Six Italia Group; Nellie de Lazard (XE1CI); Jari Kulkki, OH1EB; Southeastern DX Club; ICOM America, ACOM; Hewlett-Packard America, and Heil Sound.

inside...

W4FRU—SK
QSLing Reunion Island
Postal Rate Hikes

N5BLK—SK
New Life Members & Extra Help
XR0X Photo - San Felix Island

*Silent Key***John H. Parrott, Jr., W4FRU**

Colonel John Henry Parrott, Jr., also known to the amateur radio community as W4FRU, died November 28, 2001, in the Portsmouth Naval Hospital (VA) at the age of 79.



John H. Parrott, Jr., W4FRU

John, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, was retired from the U.S. Air Force following 32 years of distinguished service. His military career included duty in the U.S. Air Corp in the South Pacific during WWII. He was rated as a fighter and a transport pilot in both conventional and jet aircraft.

Amateur Radio activities

In 1937, John was licensed as an amateur radio operator with the callsign W4FRU. During his military career, this gave him the privilege to hold several exotic call-signs and operate from many countries. He was among the original hams that put Turkey on the air after WWII.

John was a member of the ARRL and as a dedicated DXer, he served as a member, then Chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, The Society of Wireless Pioneers, The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and INDEXA.

Contributions to INDEXA

John served as an INDEXA Director for several years and in that capacity was elected chairman by his fellow directors. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee from INDEXA's earliest days until the time of his death.

As if this did not keep John busy enough, he assisted INDEXA by storing equipment that would eventually be donated for training or DXpedition purposes. If equipment was malfunctioning, John repaired it, then acted as shipping clerk, seeing that the equipment reached its destination. John was also the QSL manager for 88 stations!

John is survived by his wife, Amy, KN4NZ (ex: W4IAD); his daughter Laurie; two sons: John, III, and Robert; and four grandchildren.

Memorial Fund

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Reunion Island via France...or, no? from Erwann Merrien, F6JJX, via Bill Pickard, WA5PAE

When mailing QSL cards to Reunion Island, should the address include "via France?" No.

"Reunion Island is a 'Department Francais d'Outre-mer' which means that it's considered at the same level as the 'Departments Francais' in the metropole and its zip code has an identical composition to the metropole zip codes; consequently, there is no need to write 'via France.' The number '974' means Reunion Island just as '972' means Martinique Island." (Source: *DX reflector* 13 October 1999)

*United States***New Postal Rates**

In February, 2002, new postal rates were approved and on June 30, 2002, the new rates will take effect in the United States. The Postmaster General promised that there will be no further increases until at least 2004.

First the bad news

First-class mail will cost 37 cents, an increase of 3 cents per ounce. Non-denominated stamps valued at the new 37-cent rate will go on sale in mid-June. One stamp will depict the United States flag. There will also be a four-stamp set featuring antique toys. A "makeup rate" stamp for use with leftover 34-cent stamps will display a star.

Now the good news

The postal increases will only affect domestic mail. **The rate for the first ounce to Mexico and Canada will still be 60 cents. The rate for all other countries will continue to be 80 cents.**

Although it will cost 37 cents for the first ounce of first class mail, the cost of each additional ounce will remain 23 cents.

More rate increases

- Postcard: 23 cents — an increase of 2 cents.
- Priority mail — 1 pound: \$3.85, up 35 cents.
- Express mail — 8 ounces: \$13.65, up \$1.20.
- Parcel post — the fee will vary. A typical 2 pound package will cost \$4.14, an increase of 69 cents.
- Certified mail: \$2.30 — an increase of 10 cents.
- Signed return receipt — \$1.75, increase of 25 cents.

Silent Key**Gene Willbanks, N5BLK**

Gene Willbanks, N5BLK, passed away in Louisiana on Thursday, March 21, 2002. He was 59 years old and succumbed after complications following heart bypass surgery.

Until his untimely passing, Gene was a dedicated staff member of INDEXA. He participated in the daily INDEXA Information Session, providing QSL routes and DX information.

Amateur Radio bio

Gene received his Novice Class license in 1978 and in addition to DXing, he developed an interest in county hunting and ragchewing. He especially enjoyed HF mobile operation and he helped many hams contact various counties for their USACA award.

A generous man

N5BLK loved people. For twenty-five years, he taught school in the Grant Parish School system. He was also active in his local church, was a former member of the Pollock Volunteer Fire Department, and was a former dispatcher for the Grant Parish Sheriff's Department.

Many interests—many talents

In addition to amateur radio, he enjoyed photography and traveling with his beloved XYL, Myrt, who is a retired mathematics teacher. Together they raised and loved two children, Alan and Leah. They have two grandchildren.

Gene will always be remembered as a helpful and kind man who tempered difficult situations with his rye sense of humor. He was always a gentleman—a Southern gentleman, a Christian gentleman!

Memorial fund

A memorial fund has been established in Gene's name and donations may be sent to: Treasurer, Lincecum Baptist Church, 513 Hwy. 123, Pollock, LA 71467.

Colleagues are also invited to sign the memorial page at "Friends Remembered" <<http://www.eham.net>>.



Gene Willbanks, N5BLK

Editor's Note: Reporting the passing of a beloved friend and loyal member of INDEXA is always a difficult task. This time the task is doubly difficult due to the passing of two of our members, W4FRU and N5BLK.

INDEXA extends its condolences to both families during these difficult days of mourning.

And to our friends, John and Gene, you are missed! 73 until we meet again.

Clarification

In the Summer 2002 issue of the INDEXA newsletter, N4XP is listed as a contributor in the column, *Extra Help Provided By.....*

Tom asked INDEXA to inform its readers that this donation was not made to INDEXA by him, personally, but rather, these funds were unspent funds that were returned to INDEXA by the Kingman Reef Palmyra Reef DX Group.

IRC update

from Bill Pickard, WA5PAE

According to EP3SMH and others, do not send IRCs to Iran.

Unless directed otherwise by the operator, do send IRCs to Laos, especially to Hiro, XW0X and XW2A.

Although preferred over IRCs, dollars are illegal in certain countries such as India and Pakistan.

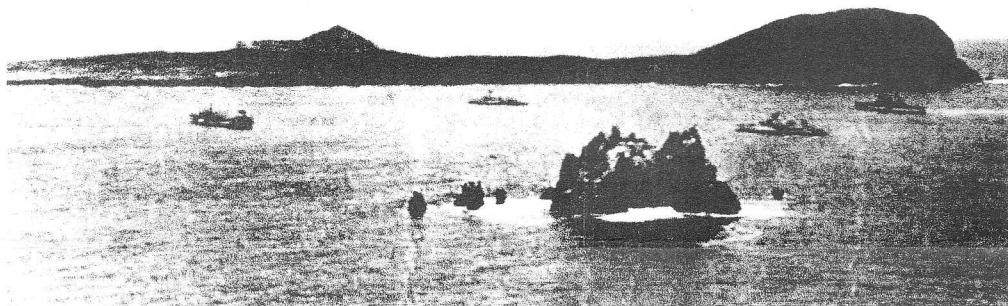
New Life Members.....

K3CFJ W6JNX WA3GNW KI4DH WB8RVK and N5RN

Extra Help Provided By.....

LA8CJ	AC5TW	K8FK	I4ASI	KD9AC	W7LR	WB8BIJ
WD6EYD	VE3IQ	PY2OCG	JL1RML	ONL-2943	WB3DNA	K7WP
JI6HXI	KI4DH	WA4DOU	K5QM	WA6ST	HS0GBI	and
W1MGP						

San Felix Island, Chile



**Please support
those who support
INDEXA.**

PROLOG QSL ROUTE DATABASE

Over 59,000 direct and manager routes. Add or edit as you like. DXCC Prefix and bearing info. Supports all major CD-ROM databases. \$23 USD incl. S/H. Update subscription (6 issues) add \$36. Ask about our full-featured logging program.

DATAMATRIX, 5560 JACKSON LOOP NE
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124 (800)-373-6564

The QSL MAN®

WAYNE (W4MPY) & LOLA (N4KAI) CARROLL
P. O. Box 73, Monetta, SC 29105 U.S.A.
Phone/FAX (803) 685-7117
Email: W4MPY@w4mpy.com
Web URL: <http://www.w4mpy.com>



**FREE QSL SAMPLES
QUALITY PRINTING AT
AFFORDABLE PRICES**

SETS OF 25 EACH "NESTING"
METRIC AIRMAIL ENVELOPES
USA = \$10.00 SHIPPING INCL.
DX = \$14.00 SHIPPED SURFACE

DXPEDITIONING BASICS

by
Wayne Mills, N7NG

A DXpedition manual co-published by
INDEXA and the ARRL

Send US \$5 to
INDEXA, POB 607, Rock Hill, SC 29731 USA
For foreign airmail, add another US \$5.

INDEXA POB 607 · Rock Hill, SC · 29731 · USA

The International DX Association

Annual membership: \$15 U.S. or 30 IRCs
Life membership: \$150 or 300 IRCs
Join INDEXA! Support DX, participate in daily DX
Info Session, and receive quarterly
INDEXA newsletter—

INDEXA NEWSLETTER

First Class Mail



INDEXA
P. O. Box 607
Rock Hill, S.C.
29731 U.S.A.

Please check your label for
expiration date